FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Coverage


La Opinion—December 4, 2009—Article on the Cerritos College Plaza Comunitaria

Long Beach Business Journal—December 8, 2009—Article on Cerritos College’s Mini E electric cars

Long Beach Press-Telegram—December 8, 2009—Article on higher education affected by the state budget cuts mentioning the class reductions at Cerritos College


Long Beach Press-Telegram—December 31, 2009—Brief on the college’s appointment of Dr. Linda Lacy as new president in the Year in Review article (from press release)
Related Articles

Los Angeles Times—December 10, 2009—Article on UC graduate school cost hike

Los Angeles Times—December 10, 2009—Article on the UC president’s presentation opposing privatization of the UC system
Cerritos College Receives $100,000 Check from Don Knabe

Funds to Support Future Automotive Partnership Building

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 1, 2009

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451 ext.2287

NORWALK, Calif. - December 1, 2009 - Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe presented a check for $100,000 to Cerritos College on Monday, November 30. The funds will support the automotive partnership building, Southland Cerritos Center for Transportation Technologies (SCCTT), which is scheduled for completion in February 2010.

The new $6 million automotive partners building will be a unique facility serving the college and its private/industry partners.

Northwood University’s west coast program center, which offers a bachelor’s degree in automotive management for full-time students and working adults, will be using the classrooms in this facility. Meeting rooms and show rooms will be used by car dealers to provide ongoing training for their employees and conduct new vehicle model presentations.

When completed in 2010, the center will give the students exposure to the real life experiences of their chosen profession and perhaps provide an opportunity for student placement within the industry.

Knabe, who has been a great supporter of the college for many years, is impressed by this private/public partnership model which brought many auto dealers together in support of this project.

“This is a visionary kind of project,” said Knabe. “Competing auto dealers are coming together in support of the new automotive partners building. This will play a large role in filling the ever-changing, highly-skilled employment needs of the auto industry. I’m glad to be part of this great project.”
“We appreciate the commitment and continued support from Supervisor Knabe,” said Dr. Linda Lacy, Cerritos College President/Superintendent. “We are excited about this partnership which will allow us to educate and train tomorrow’s automotive industry workforce.”

Cerritos College has offered automotive technology training since the college was established in 1955. Each year nearly 1,000 students seek certificate degrees and special programs in the disciplines of automotive repair, advanced transportation technologies, auto collision repair, intelligent transportation systems and alternative fuel and hybrids, making it one of the most comprehensive programs in the United States. As one of ten state Advanced Transportation Technology and Energy Initiative Centers, the Cerritos College Automotive Technology Program continues to be recognized as a regional and state leader.

Cerritos College’s Automotive Technology Program provides students with hands-on, nationally authorized training for GM, Ford, Chrysler and import vehicles, and operates a California Advanced Transportation Technology Center partially subsidized by the state to encourage development of alternative fuel sources.

###
Cerritos College Re-Entry Student Receives Carmen Solis Pratt Scholarship

Judge Presents Award to Honor Student for Returning to School

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 1, 2009

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451 ext.2287

NORWALK, Calif. - December 1, 2009 - Retired Norwalk Superior Court Judge Dan Pratt presented Debra Moulton, of Artesia, with the Carmen Solis Pratt Scholarship at the Cerritos College Foundation’s board meeting on Thursday, November 19.

Moulton, 46, decided to re-enter the workforce by earning a college degree after 25 years as a stay-at-home mom. Now in her seventh semester at Cerritos College, Moulton is maintaining a perfect GPA of 4.0.

Living with one income from her husband’s small handyman business and considering her age, Moulton did not want to incur a large student loan debt. “By obtaining scholarship money, I will be able to attend classes at a local university without feeling like I’m placing an unnecessary financial burden on my family,” said Moulton.

Moulton will be completing her associate degree in the spring of 2010 and is exploring her options at several local universities.

Judge Pratt established the annual $1600 Carmen Solis Pratt Re-Entry Scholarship in 2000 in memory of his mother who valued education, but was never able to attend college herself. Each year, Judge Pratt and the Cerritos College Foundation select a scholarship recipient among applicants who are re-entry students at Cerritos College and are 35 years or older.

“This scholarship honors students in whom I see my mother’s sense of initiative and drive,” said Pratt.

###
After 30 Long Years, Dream Sees Bright Smile

51-Year-Old Graduates from Cerritos College after Years of Hardships

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 2, 2009

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451 ext.2287

NORWALK, Calif. - December 2, 2009 - On her way to becoming a dental hygienist, Angie Taylor has gone through many more hardships than anyone can ever imagine.

Back in late 1970's she was a student at Santa Barbara City College. She had thought about going into dental hygiene, but just the thought of microbiology, anatomy and physiology intimidated Taylor. She admits that when she was younger, she never tried hard – she did only what she needed to do to get by. After she received her A.A. in general education in 1980, she found a niche working as an industrial seamstress.

She got married in 1983 and became a stay-home mom after her daughter was born in 1985. Two and a half years later she had a son and she went back to working as seamstress after a gap of four years.

In 1994 the family moved from her hometown Santa Barbara to Utah due to her then husband’s construction job which turned out to be a change for the worse. Living in another state did not agree with her. She became very depressed, and ended up smoking marijuana daily to “self medicate,” while her husband ended up becoming an alcoholic. Eventually their marriage started to fall apart. In desperation the family moved back to California in early 2002.

However, Taylor’s depression only seemed to worsen. She finally decided in November 2002, once and for all, to quit smoking marijuana for good. It was a decision that would completely change her life for the better, although it did not seem that way at first.

In December 2002, her husband could not stand her state anymore and kicked her out of their house. Taylor, completely devastated, thought her life was over. She continued working as seamstress living with her mother, while her husband continued taking care of their two children, using all of her income which was going to the joint account in the name of supporting two children. Taylor’s mother supported her. In October 2003, she finally mustered enough courage to file for divorce.
During her time in depression she completely neglected her teeth. When one of her front teeth became loose, she finally visited a dentist’s office after seven years to discover that she had to have her four upper front teeth pulled out due to periodontal disease.

When she started having some very involved dental treatment, she met one of the Cerritos College graduates, who was her dental hygienist. Because of her involvement and being so impressed with the dental hygienist, Taylor was inspired to go back to school, rekindling her old dream of one day becoming a dental hygienist. She researched online and found that the Cerritos College Dental Hygiene Program was one of the best programs in the country. After 24 years of being gone from school, she bit the bullet and began taking the pre-requisite classes. “THAT was a scariest thing I’ve ever done! I still remember walking into the first class— it was a chemistry class – and my palms were sweating,” recalled Taylor. “I was 46 years old at that time.”

Another motivation for Taylor to go back to school was her son, 17 at the time of her divorce, who took his parent’s marital problem and divorce very hard and started having a drug problem. Taylor’s supportive family encouraged her to go back to school – “If you want to help your son, you have to be his ‘torch’ and show him the way.”

“I needed to become a good example to my son. Now I can proudly say, ‘Look, son, if mom could do it, you sure can do it, too’,” said Taylor.

She got into the highly competitive Dental Hygiene Program at Cerritos College after a second try. Even after she began the program, she ran into numerous hurdles. When she began the program, she was engaged. Three weeks into the program, she had to leave her fiancé, who started becoming very abusive toward her. She ended up packing her suitcase and moving out in the same week she had four midterms to take. She did not do exceptionally well, but survived the tests in the midst of such a difficult transition. She recalls how the Dental Hygiene faculty supported her to get through this difficult time.

At the end of her first semester, as she said good-bye to her first set of finals she also said good-bye to her menstrual period. She was under such stress that it damaged her hormone balance. She started having debilitating headaches in the beginning of her second semester. Adelle Krayer, chair of the Dental Hygiene program, suggested that Taylor seek medical help about taking hormone replacement therapy. She was feeling her dream of becoming a hygienist fading away during that semester, but the Dental Hygiene faculty and the Student Health Center staff kept encouraging Taylor to hang in there. She began the therapy which alleviated the symptoms. She again survived the second semester, which is said to be the most intense semester of the Dental Hygiene program by far.

It was her third semester, right before her midterms, that she stuck herself with a used needle while administering anesthesia. There is a tedious protocol where you are required to take a blood test at an established clinic the same day of the accident, take another test after one week, six weeks, three months, six months and a year after the incident. You are also required to go back for a result one week after each blood test. As one can imagine, it’s an incredibly time-consuming protocol. What made it even worse was that she stuck herself again a few months later and had to start the blood test series all over again.

Her most serious mishap was yet to come. When taking her state board exam she had two patients, one primary and one back-up. A patient needs to be reviewed and accepted by the exam administrators be-
before students begin their exam. Her primary patient was rejected because he had tuberculosis as a child. She had forgotten that any patient with a history of tuberculosis needed a clearance from a doctor. It soon became a costly mistake for her.

The night before her exam, the back-up patient had been mugged, hit from behind, and fell on his face. His cheek was swollen and he had a big black eye but there was nothing wrong with his mouth. She assessed his face and submitted him as a patient. At the last minute the exam administrators decided to reject him due to the trauma on his face. At that time she only had less than 30 minutes left to complete the exam and had no choice but to withdraw.

She took the exam again in October and has successfully passed it – this time without any mishaps. She has also found the man of her dreams and will be moving to Hesperia, Ca. very soon.

Taylor has always tried to do what was easier and never tried to take the hard way on anything in her life. She, however, says she has learned very clearly that “the easy eventually becomes hard and the hard eventually becomes easy.” She is confident that her life will become easier after all of the hardships she has overcome in her life. “I’ve learned that I don’t have to fall apart when things don’t go the way I would like.” said Taylor. “I’ve shed so many tears going through all this, but I always pick myself up and tell myself ‘as long as I don’t quit I will win in the end’.”

Taylor’s mission of inspiring her son was accomplished. Her son, now 21 years old, found a dream of caring for animals and became a veterinary technician and hopes to go to college himself soon. However, her story will continue to inspire many more, especially those who are hesitating to go back to school and follow their true dreams.

###
Cerritos College Foundation Awards Three Auto Scholarships

Jeannie M.T. Yang, SMCDA Automotive Technology and SMCDA Northwood 3rd Year Scholarships Honor Outstanding Automotive Students

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 3, 2009

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451 ext.2287

NORWALK, Calif. - December 3, 2009 - The Cerritos College Foundation awarded three automotive scholarships to six promising students during its Board meeting on Thursday, November 19.

The Jeannie M.T. Yang Scholarship, a $500 award, was presented to Hector Arellano-Garcia, Jr. of North Hollywood and Luis Bautista of Hawaiian Gardens. Established in memory of Dr. Jeannie M.T. Yang, a community college professor who had a great passion for education, the scholarship awards promising students in the automotive department at Cerritos College.

Arellano-Garcia knows exactly what he wants to accomplish and is determined to work toward his goals. He plans to obtain an associate degree in automotive technology and transfer to Northwood University to pursue a bachelor's in automotive marketing/management. He hopes to become a certified master technician for GM and one day to own his auto repair shop.

For Bautista, who recently discovered his fondness for cars, the first automotive class he is taking this semester has been an amazing introduction to the field. Upon completion of his associate degree in automotive technology, he would like to work for a Cadillac dealership. As his experience and enthusiasm with diagnosis expands, he hopes to one day run a shop of his own and return to the college to teach.

Another Automotive scholarship, the SMCDA Automotive Technology Scholarship, was presented to Alexis Rumbo of South Gate, Juan Arreola of North Hollywood, and Danny Quaza of Paramount. The scholarship gives a $600 Tool Voucher to automotive technology students. Automotive technology students usually need to have their own tools which can exceed $30,000. This scholarship allows its recipients to get a jump-start on their toolbox.

Rumbo originally enrolled at Cerritos College as a computer science major. One automotive class he took when he had car troubles changed it all. He changed his major to automotive and decided to pursue an automotive career. He currently works at a dealership but not as a technician. With the classes he is taking and the skills he is getting from the classes, one day he hopes to move up and work as a technician.
For Arreola, cars have always been his passion as long as he can remember. He plans to complete his automotive degree at the college and transfer to Northwood University and earn a bachelor’s in automotive management. He also hopes to pursue his master’s degree at a Cal State University.

Quezada used to watch his father work on the cars and help him as a child. He would fix any cars, be it his friends’ or his family’s, to get more experience. He plans on transferring to a four-year university and become a master technician. One day he hopes to open his own shop.

SMCDA also presented the $1000 SMCDA Northwood 3rd Year Scholarship to Gabriel Gutierrez, Jr. of South Gate. This award assists Cerritos College students who have completed their first two years in automotive technology training and are pursuing their bachelor’s degree through Northwood University’s program.

Gutierrez graduated with honors from the Cerritos College automotive program this summer. Currently working as an automotive technician at a dealership, Gutierrez plans to further his education by obtaining his masters degree after he finishes the Northwood program. He hopes to be a general manager for a dealer and give back by teaching automotive to young students.

###
Cerritos College Foundation Recognizes Outstanding Female Re-entry Students

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 3, 2009

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451 ext.2287

NORWALK, Calif. - December 3, 2009 - The Cerritos College Foundation awarded scholarships to seven outstanding female re-entry students at its board meeting on Thursday, November 19.

The $500 E. Maude West Scholarship was presented to Guadalupe Rios-Ramirez of Buena Park.

Helping others has always been her love. Guadalupe organizes fundraisers for local soccer teams and teaches religious studies to fourth-graders at her church. She also helps organize a semi-annual trip to Tijuana where she collects food, blankets and school supplies and makes and delivers baskets for needy families that live in the outskirts of Tijuana.

Rios-Ramirez, who lost her 20 year job as a computer software analyst last year, decided to do something that will give her opportunities to interact and help others in a meaningful way.

By caring for her parents and taking them to doctor’s appointments, Rios-Ramirez realized the need for good, caring and knowledgeable medical assistants. Going back to school was a financial burden for unemployed Rios-Ramirez, however, she find this an opportunity to learn and be trained in something that will make her feel good about herself. The scholarship helps relieve her stressful financial situation.

The scholarship was established by long-time Artesia resident E. Maude West, who was renowned in the community for her charitable work and her commitment to women’s issues and the pursuit of educational goals.
Isabelle Maciel, of Norwalk, was presented with the $750 Ellen Carver Re-Entry Scholarship. Maciel is very active on and off campus participating in various activities and helping non-profit organizations raise funds through community events. Her passion for assisting and supporting people who are in need led her to pursue a degree in sociology.

This scholarship was established by the Woman’s Club of Artesia-Cerritos in memory of the late club member Ellen Carver, who was very active in the community.

Another scholarship established by the Club is the Woman’s Club of Artesia-Cerritos Scholarship. An award of $750 each was presented to Martha Aguilar of Norwalk, Chung-Mi Chang of Lakewood, and Lori Dominguez of Bellflower by the Club member Joanne Witt. The scholarship is awarded to female students re-entering the academic world.

Aguilar, a mother of three children, would love to make a positive impact on children’s education. She plans to enroll in the Teacher TRAC program at Cerritos College next spring and transfer to California State University, Long Beach and work on her teaching credential. Upon successful completion of her education, she would like to teach elementary students.

When Chang emigrated from Korea 25 years ago, she wanted to become a teacher. With five children, she put her dream aside and focused on raising her children as a stay-at-home mother until she enrolled at Cerritos College in 2005 and studied child development. Chang, who currently works part-time with children with special needs, is planning to take courses in Special Education to upgrade her credential.

Dominguez, a single mother of four, made the choice to go back to school and pursue a career in nursing because of her youngest two children – one is handicapped with cerebral palsy and one is autistic. She wanted to learn all she can about these illnesses and to possibly help other children with similar disabilities. Now Dominguez is an advocate for her children and shares the knowledge that she acquires through her education with other mothers that she meets in peer groups and study groups.

Dominguez got some more help with completing her educational goals with a $500 scholarship from the Norwalk Woman’s Club, which is also awarded to a female re-entry student.

Dominguez is currently taking prerequisite classes for the nursing program. She plans to transfer to Cal State Long Beach and obtain a bachelor’s degree in nursing. “With this plan in mind, I will continue my journey forward despite many obstacles that may cross my path, she said.
The Golden Girls Scholarship is another scholarship that helps female re-entry students. Established last year by five women, the scholarship helps female re-entry students. The “golden girls” decided that instead of spending money on birthday and Christmas gifts for one another they would use that money for a scholarship.

The $700 scholarship was presented to Carmen Bramasco of Norwalk. Bramasco knew she wanted to become a psychologist as a child. However, like many others, her circumstances did not allow her to attend college immediately after high school.

She began working at a credit union thinking that was only a temporary job. She worked her way up at the credit union and could afford college tuition, but with that came long hours which made it difficult for her to take classes. Bramasco made a tough decision of leaving her job and begin full-time status at Cerritos College in 2007.

She was forced to support herself by drawing funds from her savings but does not regret her decision. She plans to transfer to UC Berkley next year. Upon completing her bachelor’s in psychology, she will be applying for a graduate program and work on her degree as a counseling psychologist or clinical psychologist. Her career goal is to go into private practice one day.

“This scholarship would make it possible for me to continue going forward towards my lifelong dream,” said Bramasco.

###
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 7, 2009

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451 ext.2287

WHAT: The Cerritos College Filmmaking program will host Film Production and Cinematography Student Screenings on Saturday, December 12. The event provides a wonderful opportunity for students of the Film Production, Cinematography and Motion Picture Editing courses to show off their accomplishments and projects for family, friends and others.

For the list of the complete program, visit: http://cerritosfilm.org/fallscreenings.html

WHEN: Saturday, December 12, 2009 1:00 – 5:30 p.m.

WHERE: Cerritos College
Teleconference Center (LC 155)
11110 Alondra Blvd
Norwalk, CA 90650

COST: FREE and open to the public

CONTACT: For more information on the screenings and the Cerritos College Film program, please contact Professor Steven Hirohama at (562) 860-2451, ext.2637 or stevenhirohama@mac.com.

###
Cerritos College’s High School Counselor Conference is A Great Success

90 Local High School Counselors Spend a Day on Campus

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 15, 2009

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451 ext.2287

NORWALK, Calif. - December 15, 2009 - Counselors from local and Los Angeles area high schools came to Cerritos College on Friday, December 4 for the third annual 2009 High School Counselor Conference.

Organized by the Career Services and School Relations departments, the conference offered vital updates to high school counselors on admissions, various career technical education and academic programs offered by Cerritos College.

The counselors spent the day learning about Cerritos College and what it has to offer their students when they move on to their post-secondary education.

President Dr. Linda Lacy spoke to the counselors about what is happening around campus, including legislative changes due to the state budget crisis, the college’s educational programs and partnerships.

Following that a panel of diverse Cerritos College students told their stories such as why they chose Cerritos, what they liked about this school and how they have benefitted from choosing to attend Cerritos College.

The panel included local students, as well as a student that moved here specifically to attend Northwood University at Cerritos, which offers accelerated bachelor’s programs on Cerritos College campus. There were also students that came here directly out of high school and one that came from an adult school after getting her GED.

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The panel included local students, as well as a student that moved here specifically to attend Northwood University at Cerritos, which offers accelerated bachelor’s programs on Cerritos College campus. There were also students that came here directly out of high school and one that came from an adult school after getting her GED.

After the counselors heard from Cerritos College staff, administrators and students they were given the opportunity to take a tour of campus and received presentations about some of the programs and services offered here, such as the Career Tech Education programs, EOPS, counseling, career services and transfer services.

At the end of the half-day conference, the high school counselors enjoyed lunch prepared by the college’s Culinary Arts program and the improvisational comedy by the students in the Theatre Department. A door prize raffle added a little extra touch to the event. The prizes were brought and donated by various departments and programs on campus.

“The conference was a campus wide endeavor with faculty, staff, programs and students all participating to make it possible,” said Terrie Lopez, director of Career Services. “It was an excellent opportunity to continue to build new bridges between high school counselors and Cerritos College.”

“I love this conference, which allows us to update ourselves with all of the key offerings of Cerritos College in just half.

###
Cerritos College Board of Trustees Swears in New Members, Elects New Officers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 10, 2009

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451 ext.2287

NORWALK, Calif. - December 10, 2009 - The Cerritos College Board of Trustees held its annual reorganization meeting on Wednesday, December 9, where newly elected board member Dr. Shin Liu and re-elected members Bob Epple and Dr. Bob Hughlett were sworn in by the College President/Superintendent Dr. Linda Lacy.

“I used to teach part-time at Cerritos College,” said Liu. “It’s great to come back to the College as a member of the Board.”

Liu, professor of computer information technology at Rio Hondo College, commented on her goal as a board member for the coming year, “My goal is to maintain the great Cerritos College programs and services and get through the state budget crisis.

The Board also chose new officers for the coming year, electing immediate past vice president Dr. Bob Hughlett as the new board president, member Tom Jackson as vice-president, and member Bob Arthur as secretary.

Outgoing board member Carmen Avalos was presented with an honorary plaque for her four years of service on the Board of Trustees. Avalos joined the board in 2005 and has served as the Board Secretary this year.

“Your particular attention to our diverse students and their professional and vocational futures is commendable, and we have appreciated your constancy and presence on our board, as well as the insights that you provide,” said outgoing president Bob Epple.

Outgoing president Bob Epple, who presided through tough California budget crisis and the selection of president Lacy, was also recognized for his year of dedication and service to the board.
“We have all appreciated Bob’s tremendous leadership skills and dedication to the district,” said incoming Board President Hughlett of Epple.

Representative Erin Stibal from the office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe presented both Avalos and Epple with the certificate of commendation from Supervisor Knabe.

Board President Dr. Bob Hughlett, of Cerritos, has served as a board member since 2005. He is a retired administrator from Cerritos College, having been director of the Disabled Students Programs & Services (DSPS) at the college from 1980 to 2005. Dr. Hughlett served as mayor and councilmember for the City of Cerritos and as Board of Education member for the ABC Unified School District. He is president of the California Association for Postsecondary Education and Disability (CAPED).

Board Vice President Jackson, of Norwalk, is a Cerritos College retiree, having served as a full-time faculty member in the college’s Business Education Division beginning in 1980 and until his retirement in 2002. He has also served as a board member for the Cerritos College Foundation since 2004. Jackson earned an associate’s degree in business and engineering from Long Beach City College before earning a bachelor’s degree in business administration from California State University, Long Beach. He went on to earn a second bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree in business administration from the University of Southern California. He also holds a certificate in food-marketing management from USC. Prior to his academic pursuits, Jackson served in the United States Coast Guard.

Board Secretary Arthur, also of Norwalk, is a Cerritos College alumnus and longtime community member. In addition to his role on the college’s board, Arthur has served as a board member for the Cerritos College Foundation since April 1996. Arthur also served as mayor and councilmember for the city of Norwalk, as board member for the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission and as a board member for the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

###
Cerritos College Offers In-Demand Engineering Design Software Training

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 15, 2009

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451 ext.2287

NORWALK, Calif. - December 15, 2009 - In light of the global economic crisis, Cerritos College’s Engineering Design Technology Department is currently offering the retraining of the employees and students – a head start in the aerospace industry through engineering design software courses.

Engineering design software courses taught at Cerritos College cover programs such as AutoCAD, Autodesk 3ds MAX DESIGN, Mechanical Desktop, MAP 3-D, Inventor, SolidWorks, and CATIA. According to Farid Wissa, chairman and professor of the Engineering Design Technology Department, knowledge of these programs are highly desired by industry giants seeking to hire highly qualified and well trained employees.

“Engineering companies are in need of good designers to be part of their teams with Very High Salary Rates,” Wissa said. “In fact, currently Aerospace firms have open job positions, and engineering software designers are needed for contributing to the building of high number of airplanes in the years to come.”

Enrollment is underway for classes starting Monday, January 11, 2010, and students can register online at www.cerritos.edu. Those interested in taking any of these classes are encouraged to apply immediately while space still exists.

Students may not register unless they meet all the required prerequisites. Students who feel that they have experience that is equivalent to prerequisite courses may contact the Engineering Design Technology Department to discuss alternatives that can satisfy prerequisites.

High school juniors and seniors may enroll in most engineering technology courses free of cost while they are still at the high school to earn both high school and college credit under the College Bridge Program. For more information about the College Bridge Program, minors should speak with their high school counselors and the Cerritos College counselors.

The Engineering Design Technology Department has course credit transfer agreements with California State University, Los Angeles; California State University, Long Beach; and other surrounding universities.
Cerritos College Experiences Generosity beyond Measure

College Collects More Food than Ever for Needy Families

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 21, 2009

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451 ext.2287

NORWALK, Calif. - December 21, 2009 - Couches and tables in the Student Activities office were completely buried in mountains of canned soup, snacks and instant noodles the week before Thanksgiving this year.

The Annual ASCC-sponsored Student Activities Office Food Drive competition has been a tradition at Cerritos College for over 20 years. The food was donated to the Norwalk City Council’s Holiday Food Basket Program to help less fortunate families in the Norwalk area.

Over 36,000 non-perishable food items were brought in by campus clubs and individuals.

Members of the City of Norwalk were stunned when they saw the “wall” in the Student Activities office. “I’m seeing more donations today than any previous years,” said Tak Hamabata, director of Social Services at the City of Norwalk. “These will get us through early next year, which means we can help families in need have a happy holiday season.”

With the economy still in slump and unemployment in double digits, Hamabata said he sees many middle-class families and individuals who have never needed assistance before are applying this year.
“Considering it’s the toughest time for everybody, Cerritos College students really stepped up and collected amazing amount of donations,” said Gordon Stefenhagen, vice mayor of Norwalk, who started the City of Norwalk Food Basket Program over 20 years ago. “Cerritos College students sure are giving back to their community, and we truly appreciate it.”

Celena Murillo, president of the Court Reporting Club, called and visited local grocers and collected over 7,000 food items. “I am grateful of all the local grocers who willingly helped us,” said Murillo. “But a can which individuals donate from their pantry really does count.”

“Personally, I am in "awe" of the generosity I have seen this year in donations. What a refreshing experience!” said Mickey England, Court Reporting Club advisor, who collected over 4,000 food items. “Thank you for this opportunity to give back. It has been a joy!”

Food is not the only thing being donated at Cerritos College. The Follett Bookstore participated in the 9th Annual City of Norwalk Angel Tree Project. The bookstore has participated in the effort since the project’s inception, according to Paul Flovick, the Follet Bookstore’s store manager.

Working with the City of Norwalk Social Service Center, the campus bookstore hangs laminated angel ornaments on a Christmas tree. Each angel has the name, age, sex, and clothing size of a local needy child. The donator can pick which child they would like to buy for, and then return a wrapped gift of clothing back to the bookstore. “This year we received about 25 angels,” said Flovick. He said it took a little longer than before to have all of the angels adopted this year, probably due to the economy. “But they all eventually found a donator.”

“It’s a wonderful opportunity for everyone on campus to reach out to local kids in need,” said Flovick.

“It’s nice in these economic times that our students have shown their holiday spirit and stepped up at a record pace at this year’s food drive,” said Student Activities Director, Holly Bogdanovich. “We are proud of the Cerritos College students who are giving back to their community. Their donations truly make a difference.”

###
Art sale: The Cerritos College Art Club presents its annual student art sale from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Student Center North Stage on campus, 110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk. Proceeds benefit the artists and the different disciplines represented in Art Club programs.

(562) 860-2451, ext. 2600 or ext. 2614
LULAC honors two on Cerritos faculty

It advances the economic conditions, educational attainment, political influence, health and civil rights of Hispanic Americans through community-based programs operating at more than 700 LULAC councils nationwide.

The award was established by the council in collaboration with its state LULAC director, the community, and the council’s elected officials to recognize individuals who made significant contributions to people of Latin descent in the council district through education.

“Graciela Vásquez and Walter Fernández were selected because they are a living example of the LULAC philosophy of creating positive change through personal integrity and ethical leadership,” said Rosa Barragán, president of the council.

Fernández was nominated by his students for his commitment to the Sociedad de Profesores Latinos, an association of professors and counselors which promotes educational events pertaining to people from the predominantly Spanish-speaking countries and interest in the Castilian language and its diverse regional forms.

Vásquez was instrumental in the establishment and success of Project HOPE, a program at the college designed to increase the number of Latinos and disadvantaged students preparing to study careers in the health care fields.

She has also managed programs for adults, largely immigrants, in the areas of vocational education, job preparation, basic and language skills development, citizenship and civics education and bilingual education.
Dan giro a su vida con otros estudios

Inmigrantes enfocan sus esperanzas en los colegios comunitarios

YOLANDA ARENALES
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Para muchos inmigrantes, particularmente los que no dominan el inglés, la crisis de empleo actual es devastadora. Por eso, una de las mejores estrategias es aprovechar el momento para dar un giro definitivo a sus oportunidades laborales.

“Nuestro lana es que deben hacer de la educación su nuevo empleo”, dice Daryabuth Martínez, asistente de programas en el departamento de educación de adultos del colegio comunitario Carritos, en Norwalk.

El centro ofrecerá mañana una sesión informativa en la que participarán expertos del Departamento de Trabajo (EDD) para informar de las opciones existentes.

“Nos enfocamos en las personas que no saben inglés, ofreciendo entrenamientos bilingües de trabajo en áreas como soldadura y mecánica automotriz, entre otras”, dice Martínez.

Elliana Alfaro, coordinadora de capacitación laboral del EDD en los condados de Los Angeles y Ventura, explica que el departamento ayuda a los desempleados a encontrar clases que, si bien mejoran y actualicen sus conocimientos, o les faciliten un cambio profesional hacia ocupaciones con más demanda.

“Hay incluso un programa en el que se subvenciona el total de las tasas, libros, herramientas o materiales”, y hasta costos de estacionamiento, dice Alfaro, explicando que se trata de una iniciativa federal administrada por el estado.

Esta se enfoca en trabajadores de empresas que han corrido o se han trasladado a causa de la situación...
Electric Cars: The Future Impact Of Renewable Energy

By Tiffany Rider
Staff Writer

As the auto industry shifts toward plug-in electric vehicles, one local school is getting the chance to test-drive the future.

Cerritos College is participating in a pilot program with BMW of North America that allows the college to test two Mini Es, which are plug-in electric Mini Coopers, through a one-year lease for about $10 a month.

“Cerritos College is the only college we are offering the lease in this program,” Junior Mercado, sales consultant for Long Beach Mini, said in a statement. According to Mercado, 100 of the 450 Mini Es in the country are in California and have been leased to select corporate, municipal and individual customers.

“We have been offered the opportunity to participate in this pilot program because of our great working relationship with BMW,” Steve Berkline, dean of the technology division at Cerritos College, said in a statement. “It’s an example of the college’s many continuing efforts to build industry partnerships.”

Jannet Malig, director of advanced transportation technologies at Cerritos College, said the vehicles are driven and enjoyed by campus faculty and staff.

“We use them a lot for people who do official business for us, but we also allow them to take one home and use it,” Malig said. “If you use it for official business
Electric Vehicles (cont'd)

[Continued from Page 1]

(only), sometimes you don’t [travel] that often, and we really wanted to get feedback for BMW.

Each driver fills out a form to provide feedback on how the vehicles drive in real conditions. Malig said that her experience driving one of the Mini E’s immediately showed the difference between electric engines and combustion engines.

“It has a lot of power,” Malig said. “It’s got a lot of torque on it because it is an electric vehicle. So when you step on it, it goes.”

Malig also commented on how quiet the Mini E’s are, which can be deceiving.

“You turn it on, and you don’t hear a single thing,” she said. “So, just like with any of the regenerative brakes. ‘That’s why it’s really promoted for the metro area. Because it only goes 100 miles, it can recharge itself when you’re in stop-and-go traffic.’

Malig said she has seen the push for education on renewable energy trickle down as far as the kindergarten level.

“Even at K-12, there is a much better understanding and a much better push for the technology and understanding what it is,” Malig said.

Linda Ziegler, senior vice president or customer service with Southern California Edison, said the push for electric vehicles would increase demand for electricity as more plug-ins hit the roads.

“There’s capacity in the electric system,” Ziegler said. “We work with the auto manufacturers to make sure that we have the technology to control when the renewable power,” she said. “We’re going to match up renewable power with the electric vehicles. In addition to that, in the future it could be that your vehicle would act as a battery. So if you had a high price for electricity on a hot summer day, you might use your vehicle to power your house as opposed to pulling power off the grid.”

For now, Malig said the Mini E is a great start for electric vehicles, but not likely the popular choice to go mainstream.

“I would think that it would probably have to be in a bigger car because this one’s only a two-seater,” she said.

The college will have the vehicles through June. They are housed at the college’s Advanced Transportation Technology Center, which provides a space for development of clean, renewable energies and alternative fuel sources. It is one of 10 such centers in the state.

Cerritos College offers tours of its automotive facility and appointments to meet with automotive training professionals to discuss automotive education programs. The college has offered automotive training technology since it was established in 1955. The division offers certificates, degrees and special programs in automotive repair, advanced transportation technology, auto collision repair, intelligent transportation systems, dealership management and alternative fuel and plug-in electric hybrid vehicles.

For a tour of the automotive facilities at Cerritos College, contact Anna Jarra, program facilitator, at 562/860-2451, ext. 3084 or e-mail her at ajarra@cerritos.edu.
Higher education pledge at risk

STATE: Chancellors say budget cuts threaten promise of affordability.

By Samantha Young
The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO – California's promise of an affordable higher education for its residents is being jeopardized by state budget cuts, the leaders of the state's college and university systems warned.

The cuts threaten to violate the Master Plan for Higher Education, a half-century-old document that has made California's higher education system a model for the world.

In a rare joint appearance, the heads of the University of California, California State University and community college systems told lawmakers the education promise was in doubt because they don't have the money they need.

"You better increase the size of the pie because that's what the issue is all about," Jack Scott, chancellor of the state's 110 community colleges, told a joint legislative committee examining the master plan.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and the Legislature have cut spending at UC and CSU by 20 percent to help balance the state's budget amid the steep economic downturn. Community colleges received about 8 percent less funding in 2009-2010 fiscal year.

In response to the cuts, CSU, the nation's largest four-year university system with 450,000 students, plans to cut enrollment by 40,000 over the next two years. Nearly all 47,000 employees have agreed to take furloughs two days a month, and fees for in-state undergraduates increased by $1,000 this year.

Cal State Long Beach faced a $39 million cut this academic year. The campus reduced its enrollment by 2,300 students this year and plans to reduce it by nearly 2,000 additional students in the 2010-2011 academic year. The university will not offer any financial aid to students for summer classes.

Meanwhile, the state's community college system, which last year served 2.89 million students, raised fees from $20 to $26 per credit and reduced the number of classes.

Long Beach City College, which faced $7 million in state budget cuts and deferrals this year, reduced its course offerings by about 12 percent this semester relative to last fall. Cerritos College also has reduced its class offerings.

To deal with the cuts, the UC system, which has about 220,000 students, has raised student fees 15 percent since January, reduced freshman enrollment by 6 percent...
Cerritos College Foundation awards $17,950 in grants

Wave Staff Report

NORWALK — The Cerritos College Foundation has announced the presentation of scholarships to 35 students totaling $17,950, according to Aya Abelen, the college’s media relations coordinator.

Four scholarships have been established by foundation board members.

The Alice Wang Scholarship, established in honor of Alice Wang, wife of foundation board member LP Wang, was presented to Nathalia Contreras of Pico Rivera. Zohaida Yasmin of Norwalk and Rita Munoz of Baldwin Park. The $500 scholarship recognizes a single mother majoring in child development, Abelen said.

The $1,000 Cheryl A. Eppler Memorial Scholarship was presented to Chavonne Mosquera of La Habra and Marie Marrquin of Pico Rivera. The scholarship was established in 2004 by Bob Eppler, Cerritos College trustee and husband of the late Cerritos College trustee Cheryl Eppler, and his family. A scholarship established by a longtime Cerritos College trustee, the John Moore First Step Scholarship, was presented to Moore to Ramon Garcia of Bell, Brandon Can of Downey and Asad Amey of Long Beach. It was established by Moore, a now-retired 19-year member of the board, to help first semester college students who show the promise of succeeding.

Anna Mariel Francisco, of Bellflower, received the $1,000 Habib American Bank Business Scholarship. The bank’s CEO, Saleem Iqbal, is a Cerritos College Foundation board member.

Established in 2004, the scholarship is awarded to a qualified student who is a declared business major.

Other scholarships included the $500 Guadalupe Sanchez de Hernandez TRAC Scholarship which was presented to Kelsie De LaCampaa of Downey. Established in memory of Guadalupe Sanchez de Hernandez, the scholarship is awarded each fall to a non-native English speaker newly admitted into the Teacher TRAC program.

The $500 E. Maude West Scholarship was presented to Guadalupe Rios-Ramirez of Buena Park. The scholarship was established by longtime Artesia resident F. Maude West.

Isabelle Maciel of Norwalk was presented with the $750 Ellen Carver Re-entry Scholarship, which was established by the Woman’s Club of Artesia-Cerritos in memory of club member Ellen Carver.

Joaquín Witt presented the Woman’s Club of Artesia-Cerritos Scholarship award of $750 each, to Lori Dominguez of Bellflower, Chung-Mi Chang of Lakewood, and Martha Aguilar of Norwalk. The scholarship is awarded to female students re-entering the academic world.

Dominguez also got a $500 scholarship from the Norwalk Woman’s Club, which is also awarded to a female re-entry student.

Tom Jackson, Cerritos College trustee, presented Sylvia Guzman of Pico Rivera, with the $500 Cerritos College Retired Faculty Association Teacher TRAC Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to a student newly admitted into the Teacher TRAC program. Jackson, a retired Cerritos College accounting professor, is a member of CORFA.

Carman Bramascio of Norwalk was presented with the $700 Golden Girls Scholarship. Established last year by five women, the scholarship helps female re-entry students.

Debra Moultin of Artesia received the Carmel Solls Pratt Re-entry Scholarship, a $1,600 award, presented by retired Norwalk Superior Court Judge Dan Pratt. The scholarship was established by Judge Pratt in memory of his mother who valued education, but was never able to attend college herself.

The $500 Broderick Connemara Scholarship was presented to Christina Campos of Lynwood. The scholarship was established by the late Cerritos College reading professor William Broderick, and named in memory of Broderick and his father-in-law.

Debra Moultin of Artesia received the Carmel Solls Pratt Re-entry Scholarship, a $1,600 award, presented by retired Norwalk Superior Court Judge Dan Pratt. The scholarship was established by Judge Pratt in memory of his mother who valued education, but was never able to attend college herself.

An automotive scholarship, the SMICDA Automotive Technology Scholarship, was presented to Alexis Rumba of South Gate, Juan Arriola of North Hollywood, and Danny Quezada of Paramount. The scholarship gives a $600 Tool Voucher to automotive technology students, who usually need to buy their own tools which can exceed $50,000.

SMICDA also presented the $1000 SMICDA Northwood Third-Year Scholarship to Gabriel Gutierrez Jr. of South Gate.

This award assists Cerritos College students who have completed their first two years in automotive technology training and are pursuing their bachelor’s degree through Northwood University’s program on the Cerritos campus, Abelen said.

The Robert W. Collins Scholarship for Administration of Justice Students was presented to Fernando Arroyo of Bell Gardens, who received $500 award. A $250 award was received by Victor Newman of Paramount and an award of $500 each was presented to Brit Newman of Norwalk and Chelly Liu of Los Angeles.

Additionally, Adrian Vargas of Paramount; Kimberly Re of Norwalk; Valerie Zavala of Norwalk; Aisledey Villana of Norwalk; and Joanna Hall of Buena Park each received $1,000 in recognition awards.

The scholarship was established in memory of administration of justice faculty member John Collins’ father, Rex Collins, a veteran of World War II and the Korean War, who through the ranks to become a police officer in Monterey Park.
Outgoing board member Carmen Avalos was presented with an honorary plaque for her four years of service on the Board of Trustees. Avalos joined the board in 2005 and served as board secretary this past year.

Outgoing President Bob Eppele, who presided through the tough budget crisis and the selection of President Lacy, was also recognized for his year of service to the board.

“We have all appreciated Bob’s tremendous leadership skills and dedication to the district,” Hughlett said.

Hughlett, of Cerritos, has served as a board member since 2005. He is a retired administrator from Cerritos College, having been director of the disabled students programs and services at the college from 1980 to 2005. Hughlett has served as a councilman in the City of Cerritos and on the ABC school board.

Jackson earned an associate’s degree in business and engineering from Long Beach City College before earning a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Cal State Long Beach.

He went on to earn a second bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree in business administration from USC.

Jackson also holds a certificate in food-marketing management from USC. Prior to his academic pursuits, Jackson served in the U.S. Coast Guard.

Arthur, also of Norwalk, is a Cerritos College alumnus and has served as a board member for the Cerritos College Foundation since April 1996.

He also served as mayor and councilman for the city of Norwalk, as board member
College sets food donation record

Wave Staff Report

NORWALK — The annual Associated Students of Cerritos College food drive resulted in more than 36,000 non-perishable food items being distributed to needy area residents for the holidays, said Aya Abelon, coordinator of media relations for the college.

The Student Activities Office Food Drive competition has been a tradition at Cerritos College for more than 20 years, she said.

The food was donated to the Norwalk Holiday Food Basket Program to help less fortunate families in the Norwalk area.

“I’m seeing more donations today than any previous years,” said Tak Hamabata, director of Social Services at the city of Norwalk, of the contributed items.

With the economy still in a slump and unemployment in double digits, Hamabata said he sees many middle-class families and individuals who have never needed assistance before are applying this year.

“Considering it’s the toughest time for everybody, Cerritos College students really stepped up and collected an amazing amount of donations,” said Gordon Steenhagen, vice mayor of Norwalk, who started the city’s food basket program more than 20 years ago.

Celena Murillo, president of the college’s Court Reporting Club, called and visited local grocers and collected more than 7,000 food items.

Also, the Follett Bookstore on campus, 11110 Alondra Blvd., participated in the ninth annual City of Norwalk Angel Tree Project, which seeks clothing donations.

The bookstore has participated in the effort since the project’s inception, according to Paul Flovick, the Follett Bookstore’s store manager.

“It’s a wonderful opportunity for everyone on campus to reach out to local kids in need,” Flovick said.
College program aims to identify disabilities

NORWALK — Cerritos College’s Disabled Student Programs and Services will seek to identify disabled students through its newly established Learning Evaluation Center.

The center provides comprehensive assessments to students who may be struggling in their academics to determine eligibility for learning disabilities, and then recommends appropriate support services according to the students’ unique educational challenges.

Mary Hunt and Don Garriott, the college’s two certified learning disability specialists, provide the clinical evaluations and individualized accommodations plan for each student.

According to Hunt, learning disabilities generally are invisible. “However, there are learning disability characteristics that we can identify through our three-step assessment process,” she said.

The three steps include a comprehensive intake, the assessment and the results review with the student, where student’s eligibility, areas of strength and weakness, and recommended support services are identified.

“Our goal is to provide an optimal learning environment for students with learning disabilities and to improve their academic performances by leveling the playing field,” Hunt said.

She points out that learning disabilities are often misrepresented as “less intelligence.” In fact, most learning disabilities affect people with average to above-average intelligence.

“Their brains just process information differently,” she said.

Hunt also works as a liaison between the college and four-year institutions to support a seamless transition when students transfer.

“I strongly recommend students who are struggling to visit us. We will find out what they are eligible for and provide necessary assistance,” she said.

All counselors and instructors may contact the Learning Center or Hunt directly to request an in-class presentation.

Information: (562) 860-2451
CSU employees began taking unpaid furloughs, and Cal State Long Beach enrolled fewer students. Area community colleges had to reduce course offerings even as they saw a surge in enrollment.

Cerritos College in August named Linda L. Lacy, an executive at Riverside Community College, its new superintendent-president.